

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 as being obvious over Boyd in view of Romano.

The Examiner states that Boyd teaches (independent claims 1 and 8) a method and system for providing online networking groups, the method comprising: registering three or more users by asking them to store information in user profile database **213** (para. [0064] and [0085-0086]), which reads on entering a profile and a second profile (and a third profile) into a computer database, and creating a networking group (all three or more users/ members) contained within said computer database; and a first user forming and posting an invitation to a networking meeting to two or more other users ([**0049** and **0024**]), the selection preferences and criteria including that the attendees be intellectual property lawyers ([**0031**]), the invitation being placed in invitation database **211**, which reads on comparing said profile and said second profile (comparing both user profiles to the selection preferences and criteria) (things compared to the same thing are compared to each other), moving said second profile into a second database (invitation database **211**) is said second profile and said second profile contain same professions and same areas of practice (intellectual property lawyers), and creating a network group (the invited members) contained in said second database (invitation database **211**).

Boyd does not teach networking/meeting online. Romano teaches networking/meeting online (Abstract). Because Romano teaches that this enables networking when members lack the opportunity to interact face-to-face (Abstract), it would have been obvious to add the teachings of Romano to those of Boyd.

The amended claims now require that the professionals within a networking group do not compete with other professionals with the networking group. For instance, if there is a doctor (orthopedist), lawyer (personal injury), beautician, car insurance salesman and auto mechanic within a networking group. If a car insurance salesman tried to join the networking group they would be placed in another networking group where there are not car insurance salesman. But if a restaurant owner wanted to join this networking group they could. Above as stated by the Examiner, Boyd teaches that all of the intellectual property attorneys would be in one group. This goes against the teachings and the claims of the present invention. The present invention teaches a networking group where there is no competition for business among the members of that networking group. The Examiner previously stated that this was not part of the claim but supported by the specification in paragraph 7. This element is now part of all of the claims.

Boyd does not teach or make obvious and in fact teaches away from creating networking groups which do not include professions which overlap, and compete. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated or obvious over Boyd.

Amended Claim 8 requires a system for providing online networking wherein the networking groups not have any professions or areas of practice being the same within that networking group, and competing. Boyd does not teach or make obvious and in fact teaches away from creating networking groups which do not include professions which overlap and compete. Therefore, claim 8 is not anticipated or obvious over Boyd.

For the reasons stated above for claim 1, claims 2-7 are not anticipated or obvious over Boyd.

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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